

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01218 230704Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----049024 230943Z /23
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FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4786
INFO USUN NEW YORK 114

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1218

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, UNGA, IZ, US
SUBJECT: SEC VISIT: 32ND UNGA

REF: (A) STATE 160321, (B) STATE 165483

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAADOUN HAMMADI WILL HEAD THE IRAQI DELEGATION TO UNGA FOR GENERAL DEBATES. I RECOMMEND BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY, A POSSIBILITY THAT WAS RAISED BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB DURING MEETING WITH HAMMADI IN MAY. BILATERAL WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN OF IRAQI INTENTIONS REGARDING RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER IRAQ IS WILLINT TO CONTINUE DEALING WITH U.S. FIRMS IN WAKE OF U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. HAMMADI WOULD ALSO WISH FIRSTHAND BRIEFING ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. LATTER SUBJECT GREATLY INTERESTS GOI, DESPITE REJECTIONIST LINE WHICH IT EXPOUSES IN PUBLIC WITH GREAT VEHEMENCE, AND HAMMADI'S RECOMMENDATION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY HINGE ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF OUR EFFORTS.

2. NEITHER PRESIDENT BAKR, HIS DEPUTY SADDAM HUSSEIN, NOR VICE PRESIDENT MAAROUF IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE UNGA.

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3. I CALLED ON WISAM ZAHAWI, D.G. OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, ON JULY 18 TO DELIVER CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO HAMMADI (REF. B) AND TO SEEK INFORMATION ON LATTER'S TRAVEL PLANS. ZAHAWI SAID THAT HAMMADI IS ON LEAVE AND WILL REMAIN AWAY FROM HIS DESK FOR ONE MONTH. WHEN HE COMES BACK HE WILL DECIDE ON HIS

SCHEDULE FOR UNGA. ZAHAWI AND OTHER OFFICIALS WILL DRAW UP FOR HAMMADI'S CONSIDERATION A RECOMMENDED LIST OF BILATERAL MEETINGS. ZAHAWI SAID THAT THIS OPTIONS PAPER WILL NOTE SECRETARY'S INTENTION TO HOLD BILATERALS IN NEW YORK.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING IN SEVERAL WEEKS A MESSAGE STATING SECRETARY'S READINESS IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET WITH HAMMADI IN NEW YORK, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO MUTUALLY COMPATIBLE SCHEDULES. I BELIEVE THE IRAQIS NOW UNDERSTAND, AS IN THE PAST THEY DID NOT, THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO KEEP SECRET A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. THEY WOULD, NONETHELESS, HOPE THAT A BILATERAL COULD TAKE PLACE WITH MINIMUM PUBLICITY. THE NEW YORK VENUE OFFERS A BETTER CHANCE FOR THE MEETING TO PASS WITHOUT GREAT NOTICE THAN WOULD BE TRUE OF A BILATERAL IN WASHINGTON.
MACK

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Message Attributes

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